

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13391 250305Z

15

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 PRS-01 DPW-01 RSR-01

EUR-10 IO-03 /070 W

----- 045920

R 2"0059Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5054

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L S A I G O N 1 3 3 9 1

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SIT REP, JULY 23

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON JULY 23 INFO CINCPAC USDAO SAIGON
USSAG NKP RTAFB REPEATED FOUR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

NHA TRANG 717

1. SECURITY SITUATION: THERE WERE 35 INCIDENTS DURING THE
72-HOUR REPORTING PERIOD, WHICH IS A SLIGHTLY LOWER AVERAGE
DAILY RATE THAN HAS PREVAILED DURING THE LAST FEW WEEKS.
CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES, HOWEVER, WERE HEAVIER THAN USUAL.

2. BINH DINH AND KONTUM EACH HAD 11 INCIDENTS, BINH THUAN AND
PLEIKU FOUR, PHU YEN TWO, AND KHANH HOA, QUANG DUC AND DARLAC
EACH HAD ONE. THERE WERE 19 ENEMY ATTACKS BY FIRE, FOUR
SQCCESSFUL FRIENDLY SEARCH PATROLS, FIVE ENEMY GROUND ATTACKS,
THREE ENEMY MININGS, THREE FIREFIGHTS AND ONE SUCCESSFUL ARVN
MECHANICAL AMBUSH. THE CASUALTIES AMOUNT TO: VC/NVA - 63 KIA
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 13391 250305Z

(28 IN KONTUM), 4 CAPTURED (1 IN KONTUM); RVNAF: 11 KIA
(3 IN KONTUM), PLUS ONE POLICE CHIEF KILLED BY A MINE IN HIS
OFFICE IN HAM THUAN DISTRICT, BINH THUAN; AND 38 WIA (14 IN
KONTUM). VNAF FLEW 32 "TRAINING AND REHEARSAL" AIR MISSIONS
IN KONTUM ON JULY 21 AND 17 ON JULY 23.

3. PLEIKU/KONTUM POLOFF REPORTS THAT GROUND ACTION IN BATTLE FOR
TRUNG NGHIA AND POLEI KRONG CONTINUED OVER WEEKEND IN ESSENTIALLY
SAME PATTERN, WITH NO SIGNIFICANT ARVN ADVANCES.

4. ICCS/TPJMC: THE TWO PRG TPJMC LIAISON GROUPS WHICH WERE
SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN BINH DINH AND KONTUM ON JULY 21 AND 22
RESPECTIVELY (NHA TRANG 716, PARA 9) DID NOT IN FACT ARRIVE.
CONSUL QUI NHON REPORTS THAT BINH DINH DEPUTY SECTOR COMMANDER
TOLD HIM THAT THE PRG HAD DELAYED THEIR TRIP BECAUSE OF ALLEGED
SECURITY PROBLEMS.

5. RUFFLES AND FLOURISHES: BINH DINH PROVINCE CHIEF, COL. HOANG
DINH THO, STAGED A LARGE, IMPRESSIVE AND WELL-COORDINATED
MILITARY PARADE ON THE MORNING OF JULY 21 TO COMMEMORATE THE
FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE GVN'S REOCCUPATION OF BINH DINH'S
NORTHERN DISTRICTS WHICH HAD BEEN LOST TO THE NVA IN THE 1972
SPRING OFFENSIVE. ALTHOUGH COL. THO WAS THE MOVING FORCE BEHIND
THE DISPLAY, HE RECEIVED FULL SUPPORT FROM BRIG. GEN. NIEM, THE
COMMANDER OF THE 22ND DIVISION, WHO VIRTUALLY STRIPPED THE
PROVINCE SOUTH OF PHU CO PASS OF ARMOR SO AS TO PROVIDE TANKS
AND APC'S FOR THE PARADE.

6. THE MARCH-PAST FEATURED MORE THAN 30 ARMORED VEHICLES AS WELL
AS ARTILLERY, NEWLY ACQUIRED ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS, AND ARVN
INFANTRY AND SIGNAL UNITS. THE RF/PF AND PSDF ALSO PARTICIPATED,
AND HELICOPTERS AND JET AIRCRAFT FLEW OVER THE PARADE ROUTE.
THE MR 2 COMMANDER, MAJ. GEN. TOAN, AND THE COMMANDERS OF THE
22ND AND 23RD DIVISIONS WERE PRESENT AND TOOK PART IN AN AWARDS
CEREMONY FOR MEN WHO HAD PERFORMED OUTSTANDINGLY IN THE 1972
COUNTER-OFFENSIVE AND IN THE POST-CEASEFIRE FIGHTING. THE
PARADE AND AWARDS CEREMONY WERE TELEVISED LOCALLY AND WERE
QUITE IMPRESSIVE.

7. REPORT OF NEW DESIGNATION FOR ENEMY UNIT: THANH AN DISTRICT
CHIEF (PLEIKU PROVINCE) TOLD PROV REP JULY 17 THAT HE HAD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 13391 250305Z

RECIEVED INFORMATION THAT A NEW 50-MAN ENEMY UNIT EQUIPPED
WITH MORTARS AND MACHINE GUNS WAS LIVING IN THE HAMLET OF
PLEI GAO GENG (ZA 153.367). THIS UNIT DIFFERED FROM OTHER
ENEMY FORMATIONS, HOWEVER, IN THAT IT FLEW A NEW AND DIFFERENT
FLAG AND WORE AN ARM PATCH NOT PREVIOUSLY SEEN IN PROVINCE.

8. DISTRICT CHIEF SAID HIS AGENTS REPORTED THAT THE MEN OF THE

UNIT REFERRED TO THEMSELVES AS THE "THIRD FORCE" AND DESCRIBED THEMSELVES AS NEITHER NVA NOR PRG BUT AS A NEWLY-CREATED MILITARY ELEMENT THAT WOULD PROTECT ENEMY-HELD AREAS IN SOUTH VIET-NAM. THEIR FLAG IS DIVIDED INTO EQUAL HALVES HORIZONTALLY, GREEN ABOVE AND RED BELOW. IN THE UPPER LEFT QUARTER IS A CIRCULAR DEVICE IN YELLOW. THIS DISK IS BORDERED IN BLACK AND INTERSECTED AT THE CENTER BY TWO BLACK LINES, CREATING THE EFFECT OF AN AIMING SIGHT. THE SHOULDER PATCH IS CIRCULAR AND QUARTERED, THE QUADRANTS BEING, CLOCKWISE; RED, WHITE, YELLOW AND BLACK. THE CIRCLE IS BORDERED IN BLACK WITH A SMALLER CONCENTRIC CIRCLE, ALSO IN BLACK, UNITING THE QUADRANTS.

9. COMMENT: WE RECALL THAT THE COMMUNISTS IN THEIR RADIO BROADCASTS DURING THE 1968 TET OFFENSIVE SPOKE OF NEW, NON-NLF "PATRIOTIC" FORCES FIGHTING ON THEIR SIDE. THEY CREATED THIS FICTION BOTH IN THE HOPE THAT ARVN UNITS WOULD DEFECT AND TO GIVE SUBSTANCE TO THEIR POLITICAL "THIRD FORCE" OF THAT TIME, THE "ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC AND PEACE FORCES." NOTHING CAME OF THE EFFORT, HOWEVER, AND THEY SOON DROPPED THE "PATRIOTIC FORCES" FROM THEIR PROPAGANDA. THIS LITTLE UNIT IN PLEIKU MAY BE THE PRECURSOR OF A SIMILAR EFFORT TO GIVE SUBSTANCE TO A "THIRD FORCE" IN OPPOSITION TO THE GVN AND FIGHTING IN PARALLEL WITH THE COMMUNISTS.

10. RELEASE OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES AND POWS: MR 2 NATIONAL POLICE HQ IN PLEIKU TOLD PROV REP JULY 21 THAT PRG WOULD RELEASE CIVILIAN DETAINEES AND ARVN POW'S IN ACCORDANCE WITH FOLLOWING SCHEDULE: A) CIVILIAN DETAINEES: TEN IN KHANH HTA (BR 780.580), FIVE IN PHU YEN (CQ 011.680) AND EIGHT IN KONTUM (ZB 165.130, ALL ON JULY 25; B) ARVN POW'S: 260 ON JULY 26 AND 150 ON JULY 28, ALL IN PLEIKU PROVINCE AT YA 850.250 (VICINITY OF DUC CO).

COMMENT:
THIS SCHEDULE VARIES ONLY SLIGHTLY FROM THAT FURNISHED
TO PLEIKU KOOTUM POLOFF JULY 20 BY CHIEF GVN ELEMENT TPJMC
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 13391 250305Z

IN PLEIKU AND REPORTED IN WEEKLY OVERVIEW (NHA TRANG 0716). THE 410 ARVN POW'S ARE THOSE ORIGINALLY TO HAVE BEEN RELEASED IN LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH. SIGNED ENGLE
UNQUOTE MARTIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY VIOLATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON13391
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730765/aaaajyir.tel
Line Count: 163
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980311
Subject: MR 2 SIT REP, JULY 23 FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON JULY 23 INFO CINCPAC USDAO SAIGON
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005